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PROSPECTUS

CURRENT PROBLEMS SEMINAR

The first Current Problems Seminar will not be held until the Basic Country Surveys and Regional Surveys are well underway. It is suggested, therefore, that development of this stage of the program be deferred. Nevertheless, since this will be an integral part of, and perhaps the most challenging phase of the new Area Training Program, OTR wishes to alert Agency personnel to this later opportunity.

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The Current Problems Seminar will be designed to sharpen the skill of senior and junior analysts for attacking intelligence problems centered on a single country or region. Specifically, it will train CIA analysts to make the fullest possible utilization of area knowledge in accomplishing their missions.

Thus, the Seminar will pick up where a Basic Country Survey or a Regional Survey course leaves off, and help the analyst to develop his own sensitivity to the impact of area factors on current and future trends in the country or region. Emphasis will be placed on member participation in discussions of area characteristics which should be brought to bear on actual intelligence problems.

Each Seminar will consider both the current intelligence and the predictive aspects of such problems. Thus it will first focus on current events and trends affecting a given problem, and on what these mean in terms of

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present American security interests. Subsequently, it will turn to the estimative phase, that is, to probable future developments on the problem, together with an evaluation of what these are likely to mean for American security.

A Seminar will normally have two leaders, one with current intelligence and the other with estimative intelligence experience. They should have extensive experience on the area involved, considerable graduate training, and sufficient imagination for the task at hand. Participants should number about twelve.

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